



NEWS RELEASE

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CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYS FIRST TWO UNITS OF 2015

HARTFORD, Conn. - Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, the Adjutant General and commanding officer of the Connecticut National Guard, today announced that elements of the 143rd Regional Support Group and the 192nd Military Police have been mobilized for deployment.

The two units, totaling about 90 Soldiers, departed Bradley International Airport this morning for mobilization stations in Texas for further training. Once validated, the units will deploy for tours of duty expected to last nine to twelve months.

About 35 Soldiers of the 143rd RSG will provide command, control and administration to all base life support operations on a post in Afghanistan. The Middletown-based unit is commanded by Col. John Wiltse of Berlin.

The Niantic-based 192nd Military Police will deploy approximately 55 Soldiers to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in support of detainee operations. The unit is commanded by Lt. Col. Paul Deal of Hampton.

"Deploying two units simultaneously is no easy task, especially when the missions are so different," said Maj. Gen. Martin. "This is a testament to the hard work and training these units have done to ready themselves to be successful."

The RSG's deployment is unprecedented, as it was alerted less than two months prior to its mobilization. Traditionally, National Guard units have 18 to 24 months to prepare for a mission, but an immediate need placed the unit, its soldiers, families and employers on a shortened timetable.

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This is the third deployment for the RSG in support of the Global War on Terror. In 2004, the unit deployed to Baghdad, Iraq to support the U.S. Embassy. In 2009, portions of the unit served as logistical advisors to the Iraqi Army at multiple locations.

The 192nd Military Police are preparing for their second deployment in six years, after a 2009 mission to Iraq saw the unit perform detainee operations in Iraq, similar to their upcoming mission in Cuba.

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